

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the text of the specification at page 3, lines 11-16 with the following amended text:

--Fig. 1 is an elongated sectional view of a wall hydrant embodying the instant invention,~~and~~;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged scale sectional view taken on line 2-2 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 2 but shows the valve element in an open condition; and

Fig. 4 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 3 with the valve element in an open condition, and with fluid and ice contained in the wall hydrant.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 5-36 with the following amended paragraph:

--With reference to Fig. 2, a valve sealing element 70 with a seating surface 71 has a plug insert 72 mounted in the center thereof. An elongated fluid passageway 74 has an open inner end 76 and an opened outer end 78. The passageway 74 is created between the tolerances between the enlarged head 75 on the inner end of rod 50 and the socket 75A in which the head resides. (The head 75 is interconnected with the rod 50 by means of suitable splines on the head 75 and the socket 75A.) Center bore 80 extends along the center line of valve sealing element 70 and communicates and is in alignment with center bore 82. At least a pair of fluid exit conduits 84 extend radially outwardly from bore 82 and connect with fluid channel 86 which is comprised of the small clearance between plug insert 72 and valve seating element 70. A ball 88 is normally

seated in center bore 80 at the intersection of fluid exit conduits 84 to prevent any fluid flow from bore 80 into the conduits 84 and thence into the thin fluid channel 86 which is in communication with the space 90 which contains potable water at less than 100 psi. With reference to Figs. 2 ~~and 3~~-4, when the water pressure in inlet tube 12 increases by reason of ice forming at the outer end thereof (Fig. 4), this increased fluid pressure will be translated through fluid passageway 74, center bore 80 in the valve sealing element 70, and thence into the center bore 82 in plug insert 72. This increased pressure will bear against ball 88 and force it into the position shown in Figs. 3 and 4, whereupon fluid flow can be made through bore 80, bore 82, bores 84, conduit 86, and thence into the space 90 which contains lower pressure potable water. This activity reduces the higher pressure of the fluid in the inner end of inlet tube 12 and prevents the fluid pressure therein from exceeding the rupture pressure of the inlet conduit.--